

P E T I T I O N .

To the Honorable Members of the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in Parliament Assembled.

THE HUMBLE PETITION OF THE MONTAGNAIS TRIBE OF INDIANS, INHABITING THE NORTH SHORE OF THE ST. LAWRENCE, OR TERRITORY FORMERLY DESIGNATED BY THE NAME OF THE "KING'S POSTS."

O! you, aged men chosen by your compatriots, We, the Indians of Tadousac, of the *Islets Jeremié*, of the River *Godebou*, and of the Seven Islands, salute you cordially.

This is the first time that we have spoken to you; may our words strike upon your ears and repose softly in your hearts. We are already but too unhappy.—Game is no longer abundant in our forests and waters; and now our territory is taken away from us. But what! does not he who loves his children divide their nourishment equally among them? What have we done then, that we should not be treated as our brothers the Indians of Amont? Each summer they receive presents, since their hunting grounds have been cultivated by strangers.

For a long time the Province has drawn annual revenues from our territory, as well by the establishment of trading posts as by the cutting of timber; and although the extent of our hunting grounds is diminished by cultivation, we have not as yet received any compensation. Thus we are crowded back into the forests. Soon we shall not have even a river to spread our nets. We shall disappear as the sand which the wind carries away, if you do not defend us. We learn that new settlers will soon come to encamp on all our cultivable lands.

It is said that they wish to place us on the land situate between the River *Manikuagan* and the River *des Outardes*. It is bad land, full of sand and marshes. If you wish that we should be able to exist, we will explain to you what we think.

As there is no land fit for agriculture in the tract below the River *aux Outardes*, let there be reserved to us the extent of land between the River *des Outardes* including both banks, and the River *Betseamis*, also including both banks.

Let there be left to us the exclusive right of fishing on the Rivers *des Outardes*, *Papinachois*, *Betseamis*, the great and little *Escoumains*, *Mistashini*, *Betsi*, and *Romaine*.

Let there be left to us the exclusive right of the seal fishery, in the summer season, in the bays of *Kawis*, *Manikuagan*, *des Outardes* and *Betseamis*; and, for the winter season, at *Point des Monts*, *Point à la Croix*, *Point Betseamis*, and at *Bon Désir*.

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